

MISS ARKANSAS EBONY
MITCHELL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2022 Miss Arkansas winner, Ebony Mitchell.

Ebony was the 84th Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant winner, where she was awarded \$30,000 in scholarship funds provided by the Ted and Shannon Boy Skokos Foundation and \$75,000 in other areas.

Last December, she represented our great state at Miss America in Connecticut.

Becoming Miss Arkansas was a lifelong dream for Ebony.

Her journey started when she won the Miss University of Arkansas Princess pageant in 2007, which entered her into the Diamond State Princess mentorship program.

She had five appearances at Miss Arkansas before finally winning that title last year.

Aside from her accomplishments at Miss Arkansas, she graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 2019 with her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

As Miss Arkansas, she will continue to lead her social impact by leading the "A Responsible Digital You" initiative, which seeks to keep the children of Arkansas online safe.

Ebony is a native of Harrison, Arkansas, where she's been a leader in civil rights and community spirit in her hometown.

I congratulate Ebony for her accomplishments, and I look forward to continuing to watch her proudly represent our great state of Arkansas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX L. MILLER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 162.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. GEORGE CRABTREE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Crabtree, an energy trailblazer and fellow scientist whose over five-decade career at Argonne National Laboratory advanced a number of scientific disciplines and inspired colleagues and friends, here and around the world.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, George eventually moved to Illinois where he graduated from Proviso West High School. He ultimately joined Argonne National Laboratory as a lab technician in 1964 and received his Ph.D.

George was widely recognized and admired as a brilliant materials scientist and champion

of superconducting materials and better batteries. As director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, George bolstered the national agenda to tackle the climate crisis and build a clean and equitable energy economy. He helped pioneer early research into high-temperature superconductors and in them, he discovered new phases of superconducting vortex matter. George's research on superconductors gained him recognition as a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences.

In addition to his work at Argonne, George was a professor of physics at Northern Illinois University for 13 years and a Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois at Chicago for 12 years.

George was a luminary in every sense of the word, and his work and dedication to the global scientific community will not be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. George Crabtree.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR AFGHAN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act". The legislation would direct the State Department to automatically issue a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) for every Afghan who lived in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and their immediate family members so they can escape persecution by the Taliban and relocate safely to the United States.

During Operation Enduring Freedom and the U.S. military drawdown from the region, my office helped to evacuate 251 individuals from Afghanistan. This includes American citizens, Afghan interpreters, and Special Immigrant Visa recipients. During the evacuation process, I helped evacuate over a dozen Afghan Fulbright Scholars who studied at the University of California, Davis. That experience exposed significant challenges for Afghan Fulbright Scholars with the current SIV process that underscored the need for the "Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act."

In 2009, Congress passed the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (Title VI of Public Law 111-8) making a special class of American visas—known as Special Immigrant Visas—available to individual Afghan allies who supported the United States' mission in Afghanistan since the September 11, 2001 attacks. An SIV entitles a foreign national to relocate and live lawfully in the United States on a temporary basis with the option to settle permanently.

Fulbright Scholarships are one of the most vital U.S. cultural exchange programs that help to improve intercultural relations, diplomacy, and coordination between the United States and other countries. When my Congressional office learned that UC Davis' Fulbright participants were stuck attempting to es-

cape Afghanistan last year, we immediately worked around-the-clock with both the State Department and the U.S. military to evacuate these Afghan allies. That critical work revealed red tape that prevented current and former Afghan Fulbright Scholars from escaping Taliban rule. My "Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act" would automatically issue a Special Immigrant Visa to all current and former Afghan Fulbright Scholars to help any remaining Scholars and their immediate family members safely evacuate the region.

This is the right thing to do for our Afghan allies who stood with the United States against the Taliban and the terrorists responsible for the 9/11 attacks, and I will work tirelessly to ensure see them brought safely to America.

NATIONAL HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.

I along with my Democratic colleague, Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, reintroduced our legislation yesterday that establishes March 9 as National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.

On March 9, 2007, Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran.

He never returned home.

The commemoration of this national day brings attention to Americans that are being unjustly held as wrongful detainees and hostages in a foreign land.

Since the Levinson Act was signed into law two years ago, we've heard from families and organizations that are dedicated to helping bring wrongful detainees and hostages home and how the law is working.

We're learning more about how the Levinson Act is being used since it's become law.

And it's time for the House Foreign Affairs Committee to conduct oversight and see what potential changes should be made.

I helped create in the last Congress, the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad, because one of my constituents disappeared on a visit to Syria. Majd Kamalmaz is still held by the Assad regime in Syria.

Majd and his wonderful family lived for a time in my hometown of Little Rock.

And every member of Congress is dedicated to the more than 50 Americans who right now are held against their will wrongfully in a country around the world.

We all want to bring home Majd and every other American that's being held wrongfully.

I'm proud to be a part of this Task Force and work alongside my friend, Congresswoman STEVENS.

I thank all those who are involved in their daily awareness to bring wrongful detainees and hostages around the world home to their families in our great country.